

Operator Characteristics	Quantity
Principal operators by primary occupation:	
Farming	70
Other	57
Principal operators by sex:	
Male	112
Female	15
Average age of principal operator (years)	53.4
All operators ⁵ by race:	
White	144
Black or African American	23
American Indian or Alaska Native	-
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	-
Asian	-
More than one race	-
All operators ⁵ of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin	3

Footnotes: 1/ Universe is number of counties in state or U.S. with items. 2/ Beginning with 1997, data includes an adjustment for undercoverage. 3/Due to changes in definition and wording of questions, figures for “cropland pasture” and “other pasture” are not always comparable from the Census. Acreage beginning with 1964 refer to pastureland and rangeland, other than cropland and woodland pastured, on farms with sales of agricultural products of \$2,500 and over. 4/ Beginning with 1974, agricultural operations under individual management with annual sales of \$1,000 or more. 5/ Data were collected for a maximum of three operators per farm. NA Not Available. (D) Cannot be disclosed. (Z) Less than ½ of the unit shown. See “Census of Agriculture, Vol. 1, Geographic Series” for complete footnotes.

Distributed by:
Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659

Phone (804) 771-2493
FAX Number (804)-771-2651
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>
Kevin Barnes, Director

For more Statistics on the 2002 Census of Agriculture go
to
www.NASS.USDA.GOV

Revised 2004



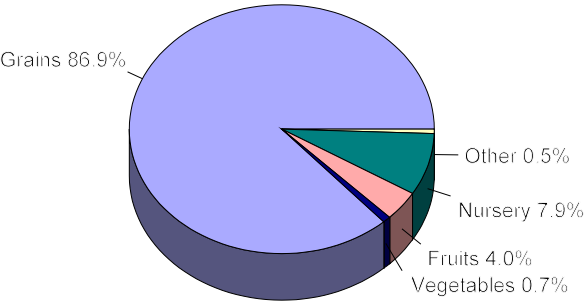
Essex County lies in the Coastal Plain on Virginia's Middle Peninsula and is bound on the north by the Rappahannock River.

The topography of Essex is low and flat, with elevations ranging from sea level to nearly 200 feet, and includes 98,013 acres of woodland. Temperatures average a moderate 37 degrees in January and 76 in July. The frost-free growing season is about 193 days, usually extending from around April 15 to October 25. Annual precipitation averages 42 inches.

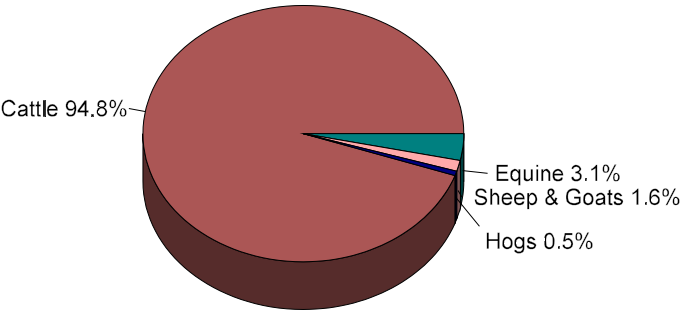
Highlights	2002	1997
Number of Farms	127	130
Land in Farms (acres)	58,266	61,708
Average size of farm	459	475
Market Value of Production County Total	\$8,097,000	\$10,211,000
Average per farm	\$63,759	\$78,546
Government Payments	\$1,025,000	\$443,000

CASH RECEIPTS

Crops



Livestock & Poultry



Ranked Items among the 98 state counties and 3,078 US Counties, 2002					
Commodity	Quantity	State Rank	Universe 1/	US Rank	Universe 1/
VALUE OF SALES BY COMMODITY GROUP (\$1,000)					
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	6,705	5	95	1,128	2,871
Tobacco	-	-	43	-	560
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	15	-	656
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	52	73	95	2,029	2,747
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	311	21	93	713	2,638
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	609	48	95	1,333	2,708
Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops	-	-	76	-	1,774
Other crops and hay	35	92	97	2,943	3,046
Poultry and eggs	-	-	94	-	2,918
Cattle and calves	366	77	97	2,808	3,053
Milk and other dairy products from cows	-	-	83	-	2,493
Hogs and pigs	2	69	90	2,677	2,919
Sheep, goats, and their products	6	77	93	2,551	2,997
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	12	86	94	2,885	3,014
Aquaculture	-	-	44	-	1,520
Other animals and other animal products	-	-	87	-	2,727
TOP LIVESTOCK INVENTORY ITEMS (number)					
Cattle and calves	1,228	81	97	2,904	3,059
All Goats	233	59	95	1,695	2,971
Layers 20 weeks old and older	93	85	96	2,737	2,983
Horses and ponies	87	91	97	2,977	3,065
Hogs and pigs	74	54	87	2,455	2,926
TOP CROP ITEMS (acres)					
Soybeans	17,882	8	79	880	2,076
Corn for grain	14,342	2	96	913	2,592
All Wheat for grain	7,487	5	87	750	2,517
Barley	3,894	2	73	165	1,246
Forage - land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	749	89	97	2,921	3,059

FARM DATA & LAND USE									
YEAR	Number of Farms	Land in Farms	Avg. Value Per Acre For Land & Buildings	LAND USE					
				Cropland			Other Pasture 3/	Woodland	
				Harvested	Other	Pasture		Pasture	Not Pastured
	Number	Acres	Dollars	-Acres-					
1940	326	44,306	53	9,411	1,703	2,562	NA	NA	NA
1945	286	46,587	97	8,576	3,413	1,962	1,330	NA	29,366
1950	256	32,687	91	8,109	1,426	1,996	775	NA	19,166
1954	227	40,412	128	9,262	487	3,394	1,598	NA	24,647
1959	155	30,522	198	8,576	1,019	2,663	1,056	NA	16,556
1964	96	25,675	325	7,377	1,241	1,731	947	1,702	27,781
1969	198	72,022	222	26,735	2,956	3,808	1,146	4,475	23,112
1974 4/	168	63,558	520	32,745	1,331	2,600	2,441	1,706	18,624
1978	200	71,863	843	38,346	1,868	1,679	2,549	1,528	20,969
1982	192	81,794	972	47,656	1,699	1,818	471	1,178	21,694
1987	142	69,188	932	37,017	8,280	537	464	1,746	17,294
1992	120	56,280	1,161	34,612	(D)	(D)	743	(D)	(D)
1997 2/	130	61,708	1,294	38,818	1,658	1,596	1,819	690	14,915
2002	127	58,266	1,911	33,764	2,403	941	3,459	1,162	14,888

See footnotes on back.